



**MINUTES**  
of the  
**Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

**January 4, 2005**

**8:30 AM**

**Santa Barbara MTD Auditorium**  
**550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Britton, Chair, Olivia Rodriguez, Vice Chair, Brian Fahnestock, Secretary, David Davis, Director, Lee Moldaver, Director

**MTD EMPLOYEES PRESENT:** Sherrie Fisher, General Manager, Tiara Lakey, Executive Assistant to the Board and General Manager, David Damiano, Manager of Transit Development and Community Relations, Jerry Estrada, Assistant General Manager/Controller, Steve Maas, Manager of Strategic Planning and Compliance, John Andoh, Transit Planning Analyst, Dave Morse, Superintendent of Operations

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dr. Dan Secord, SB City Councilman, Josh Molina, SB News Press, Paul Hernadi, Emeritus Professor of English and Comparative Literature UCSB, Mark Bradley, Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (COAST)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Britton called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

**2. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chair Britton noted all members were present with the exception of Director Moldaver. Director Moldaver arrived at 8:32 AM (prior to item 3 of the agenda).

**3. REPORT REGARDING POSTING OF AGENDA**

The General Manager reported that the agenda for this meeting was posted at the MTD administrative headquarters, on the MTD website and mailed to the media for general circulation.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **4. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES**

Director Davis moved to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2004, Transit Village/RDA joint meeting. Vice Chair Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Director Moldaver abstained, due to his absence from the meeting.

Director Moldaver moved to approve the minutes for the December 21, 2004, Board meeting. Vice Chair Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **5. APPROVAL OF THE CASH REPORT**

Director Moldaver moved to approve the Cash Report of December 14, 2004, through December 27, 2004. Vice Chair Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At this time Chair Britton requested that Jerry Estrada provide the Finance Committee with a copy of the recent credit card purchases.

## **THE CONSENT CALENDAR CONCLUDED AT THIS TIME**

### **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **7. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

The General Manager presented the Board with a list of local businesses that will be thanked for their contributions to MTD's 2004 United Way campaign. Signs with their names will be placed inside MTD buses.

The General Manager announced that the cost for health insurance for retirees would be reduced by \$9.00, per person, per month. An annual health insurance meeting will be held for the retirees next month.

At this time, the General Manager stated that she has provided Chair Britton with a 2005 MTD bus pass for each Board member. She noted, that the conflict of interest code states Board members may use passes only to monitor the transit system. She also added, that MTD always appreciates the comments it receives from the Board.

David Damiano, Manager of Transit Development and Community Relations introduced the Board to MTD's new Planning Analyst, John Andoh. The General Manager added that MTD has also hired a new driver, which is currently going through training.

The General Manager reported that MTD staff had submitted an application for approval (in the form of a letter) to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), to purchase eight diesel hybrid-electric buses in FY 2006. In the letter it was noted that MTD believes that its current urban bus fleet has already accrued more than enough offset credits to allow the agency to procure these 8 diesel hybrid-electric buses and that MTD continues to work closely with the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control district (APCD) to monitor emissions.

The General Manager reported that the Board that the Directors' and Officers' Insurance had been renewed with RSUI Indemnity Company. She added that MTD had received another quote, but it was for a lower coverage amount.

The General Manager also provided the Board with information regarding the upcoming Bus and Paratransit Conference. The American Transportation Association (ATA) hosts this conference.

The General Manager invited Steve Maas, Manager of Strategic Planning and Compliance to the floor to update the Board with information regarding a recent Santa Barbara Association of Governments (SBCAG) Staff Report. Mr. Maas then handed out copies of this report, which included MTD's suggestions for revisions to the draft 2005 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Goals, Policies and Objectives. The SBCAG report recommended rejection of the majority of MTD's suggested revisions.

Director Davis, moved to have the Board instruct MTD staff to correspond, in writing with SBCAG, before their next meeting and request that two of the denied MTD suggested objectives be added to the RTP, and to emphasize the need for the inclusion of these objectives in order to continue the viability of public transit. Director Moldaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The General Manager announced that she and David Damiano are confirmed to attend the upcoming Buellton City Council meeting to update the Council on and provide the Council with any information regarding the approaching start date of the Valley Express service. She added that the Solvang City Council has also been contacted and MTD is waiting for their reply.

The General Manager noted that MTD was mentioned in today's News Press. It was in regard to a comment made by SB City Council Member, Helene Schneider during the December 8, 2004 RDA/MTD Joint Meeting. During this meeting, Council Member Schneider suggested that the MTD consider providing service to the County Bowl during concerts. Director Davis commented that the Bowl is a County entity and any future discussion between the MTD and City should include the County Bowl Board.

The General Manager noted that the future location of the MTD Transit Center continues to be a topic in the Editorial section of the News Press. The current downtown location and the Amtrak station are both being considered in a study that will be conducted. The Board and the General Manager continue keep an open mind to the results of the study.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Director Moldaver requested that MTD try and set up a tour or orientation with newly elected officials. The General Manager replied that MTD has been in contact with some of these officials and is awaiting their response. Director Moldaver also suggested that MTD look into the feasibility of sending some or all of the Board members to the ATA conference that will be held in Columbus, Ohio in May 2005. The General Manager stated that this would be taken into consideration when reviewing the budget revisions.

*Before going into closed session, the General Manager reported the County Fire Department had received MTD's (Calle Real Soil) Remediation Plan. Certified Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC) completed the plan.*

**9. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION-CALLE REAL**

The Board met in closed session pursuant to Government Code §54956.8, conference with real property negotiators regarding the MTD Calle Real Property, APN's Book 59, Page 14, Parcels 4, 5 & 6, and Book 67, Page 23, Parcel 6, concerning price and terms of payment; agency negotiators Doug Large and Bob Andrews; other negotiation parties: Housing Authority of County of Santa Barbara, Martin Farrell Homes, and Investec Capital, Inc.

The Board instructed MTD staff to continue negotiations.

**10. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION-GENERAL MANAGER PERFORMANCE/SALARY REVIEW (ACTION MAY BE TAKEN)**

The Board met in closed session pursuant to Government Code §54957.6.

The Board instructed a meeting of the Personnel Committee and for the Committee to return to the Board with their recommendations.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the MTD Administrative Office at 963-3364 at least **48 hours in advance** of the meeting to allow time for MTD to attempt a reasonable accommodation.